

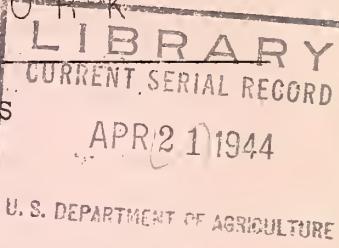
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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

Emphasis in this week's summary is on programs for meeting food-production goals in 1944; production results for 1943; and the large part played by 4-H Club members in increasing the Nation's food supply.

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ALABAMA
February 12, 1944

Production in 1943. -Official estimates show Alabama's attainments on goals last year were: Cotton, 101 percent; peanuts, 110; eggs, 103; milk, 96, hogs, 128; corn, 98.

These results came from careful planning and vigorous teamwork throughout year by groups and individuals responsible for promotion. Farmers as usual responded and worked successfully toward goals. They operated with fewer workers, less machinery and more difficulties in obtaining repairs, less fertilizer, and other handicaps.

Dairymen particularly operated under increasingly difficult circumstances. Unit of milk for example, would buy less feed than year before. Labor available was often unsatisfactory. Wages were higher. Lack of marketing facilities was handicap in certain areas. These were major reasons why Alabama dairymen failed to attain milk-production goals...

Records show 65,000 farm families in home demonstration clubs canned 18,259,256 quarts of fruits, vegetables, and meats - increase of 4,249,345 quarts over 1942. Figures for other farm families are not available. Total of 362,481 vegetable gardens, rural and urban, valued at \$21,500,000, was reported for 1943. County extension workers reported 143,000 farm gardens that produced vegetables valued at \$18,000,000.

Attainments of State's 124,704 4-H Club boys and girls compared favorably with those of adults. Good example was war hog project, started early in year with goal of 10,000 hogs. Club members actually sold 13,370 hogs, and more were produced and consumed at home. Other 4-H Club achievements in 1943 included 1,393,039 quarts of food canned; 537,968 chickens grown; 6,914 animals cared for; and 9,227 acres of corn, 4,097 acres of peanuts, 10,481 acres of Victory Gardens grown.

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All production figures here reported relate to work of both white people and negroes.

Production program for 1944. - Plans for 1944 are similar to those of 1943, because programs of work and procedure have been developed over period of years. Each year changes and adjustments are made to increase efficiency and effectiveness and to meet new needs.

To prepare for best possible results this year, annual meeting early in January dealt with fundamentals of agriculture and extension work in relation to farm living, including total economy of State. This was followed by group meetings of county agents and AAA county assistants, with State workers, dealing explicitly with production goals for 1944. State is expected to equal or exceed 1943 production on 26 of 30 different crop and livestock goals. Because of feed situation reductions are suggested for 3 livestock goals. Cotton acreage is set at 99 percent of 1943 but probably will be about the same. Cotton is food as well as fiber crop. More emphasis will be placed on combination of increased production and improved marketing. Conservation for home needs, always essential, will not be neglected.

To help in attainment of this year's milk-production goal, short course was given at Auburn for extension workers and dairy products processors. Course was based on 8-point national milk-production program.

In 1944 more and greater use will be made of leaders on community and neighborhood levels, as well as on county basis. Use of press and radio will be enlarged and improved. Effort will also be made to improve technique of holding extension meetings.

PUERTO RICO

January 1, 1944

Program planning committee meetings were held in all districts during past month to formulate 1944 plan of work. Supervisors conducted training meetings for agents on preparation of new monthly reports and plans of work. Eight new agents attended two sectional training meetings in food preservation.

Women's and 4-H Clubs helped farm women in selection and buying of clothing and home furnishings. Help was also given in making of rag toys and in renovation of discarded ones. Number of 4-H Clubs made toys for sale and realized total of \$473. One toy center alone sold \$118 worth. Total of 19 method demonstrations in toy making were given at club meetings, and 401 toys were made and distributed at Christmas celebrations. One hundred of these were sent to orphan asylum for girls.

WYOMING

February 1, 1944

Food-production goals. - Work on 1944 food-production program started with four district meetings of county agents and farm leaders, to present urgent need for increased production and to discuss goals for each county. Suggestions were made as to means and methods of reaching goals and availability of credit and machinery. Within counties meetings to carry program to individual farmers in all communities are being started.

Labor.-Effort is being made to inform farm and ranch people on labor situation and proposed plan for meeting it. Series of district labor conferences was held to acquaint county agents, labor assistants, and representatives of farm labor committees with situation and plan of action. Housing and camp needs were discussed; also possibilities of again using Italian war prisoners, Mexican nationals, and groups from other States. Herders and lambers will be supplied from Southwest; some already are on job.

4-H Clubs.-Boys and girls are being enrolled in 4-H beef, dairy, swine, poultry, and garden clubs for greater food production in 1944. Members experienced in feeding are encouraged to feed several animals rather than one. More than 200 high-quality calves are being fed by club members, and number will be increased by end of month. Plans are being made for observance of Mobilization Week. At end of that week all clubs are expected to be organized and ready to go.

Information material.-Subject-matter specialists in dairying, poultry, gardening, foods and nutrition are giving food production first consideration. They are preparing and sending out circulars and bulletins on methods of increasing food production and on nutritional foods and feeding practices to enable farm people to meet food and feed shortages.

Livestock.-Scores of herds of cattle involving thousands of head will be treated against heel fly this year as result of organization work done by county agents, livestock specialist, pest inspectors, and State entomologist. Power sprayers and spray materials have been obtained and cattlemen in at least 12 counties have been signed up to have stock treated. Work has begun in several counties; others will start soon. Successful control of heel fly in a few counties last year, through poison spray applied with power sprayer, has provoked widespread interest.

Considerable work has been done by extension livestock specialist in getting 8-point national milk-production program to milk producers. Many cattlemen have been helped in grading herds and saving better heifers. Eight thousand herds of sheep have been culled for sheepmen, to eliminate low producers.

